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here still less employed than in the later editions. Nos. 7-15 and 17-24 of the readings added to the published text correspond to the edition of the collection of Erlangen, which edition seems to be anterior to the other known editions, and the short title of "*Storia di Mattabruna*," not found in any other edition, may warrant this supposition.

Varnhagen says (p. 50) that the Italian poet has changed the number of the seven children, found in the French redactions, into that of four, since he might have heard that at most four twin children, but not seven twin children are natural. But there is still another French redaction of the Knight of the Swan, the manuscript of which is at Turin, where, likewise, only four sons of the same age are in question. '*Sone de Nansay*' (or Nausay) is the title of this poem, which was composed at the beginning of the fourteenth century by a certain Branque, in accordance with the desire of the "*dame de Baruth*," who descended from the dukes of Brabant. Scheler, '*Le Bibliophile Belge*,' t. i. (Brussels, 1866) p. 257, has reprinted the corresponding sketch in prose which precedes this French poem, and there we read:

"Houdouranz . . . . . eut puis espousée Matabruna, la plus male femme qui fust, si en ot le roi Oriant, et Oriant ot Elouse, si en ot iv fieus à un lit et nasqui cascuns atout une cainette d'or; Matabruna haoit Elouse, si esraye (=arrache) l'un enfant sa cainette, si devint chisnes, dont n'en ose plus faire. Li chisnes s'en vola en l'aighe desous Galoches; che fust li chisnes qui mena Elias son frère c'on apielle le chevalier au chisne."

Since in this poem the original number of the seven Swan-children has been reduced to four, we must also suppose that such a changing was already owing to the French source of the Italian poet, and that logical reasons did not induce the latter to make the alteration.

The literary references of Varnhagen may be supplemented by Prato, '*Quattro Novelline Popolari Livornesi*' (Spoleto, 1880) who gives numerous comparative notes and calls (p. 107) the "*Storia della Regina Stella e Mattabruna*" a "*riproduzione*" of the "*Histoire miraculeuse du Chevalier au Cygne*."

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### NOT SO VERY AMERICAN.

IN Dr. Fitzedward Hall's remarks on "*The American Dialect*" (the *Academy*, March 25, 1893, pp. 265-7) there is a recognition of two kinds of Americanisms,—"*tolerable*" and "*intolerable*." The former are noticed only by allusions here and there; the latter are commented on at some length, and illustrated by very numerous quotations taken from an American schoolbook. As it is my purpose to show that many of the locutions supposed by Dr. Hall to be Americanisms are not peculiarly American, I will first make the fact evident that they were cited as such by Dr. Hall.

In his letter to the *Academy*, Dr. Hall says:

"To return to Mr. — [the author of the schoolbook previously referred to], it would be idle to contend that his Americanisms have not, in large share, the countenance of all our later writers of any conspicuous note, a mere handful of them, the very choicest, omitted from account. And even these Americanize in some measure. Indeed, if they did otherwise, in addition to perplexing most of their readers, they would occasionally be chargeable, not unfairly, with affectation. In so saying, I, of course, imply that our linguistic innovations, some of which have established themselves ineradicably, and are, in fact, indispensable, are by no means to be condemned without exception. At present, however, without undertaking the defence of such of them as are defensible, I limit myself to deprecating those which are indefensible, either as being entirely gratuitous or on other grounds equally valid. Of innovations of this description, which so commonly disfigure American English, the number, I repeat, is very great. Manifestly, then, their diffusion and their constant increase call for grave consideration. That a duty devolves on us, in connexion with them, is what I would suggest by this slight paper."—P. 266, 3d. column.

These remarks follow a digression in which Dr. Hall speaks of the difficulty he has experienced in unlearning his American English. In returning to Mr. —, Dr. Hall returns to the American writer whose schoolbook has supplied him with all his dialectic examples except one. In the introductory part of his letter (p. 265), Dr. Hall tells us that

"genuine English is no longer, practically, our portion. . . Instances are most abundant in which we [Americans] have, instead of its words and phrases, substitutes for them. Of

the difference in quality between such of these substitutes as are tolerable and such as should be pronounced intolerable, not many of us, however, have other than a hazy conception."

For the purpose of illustrating "such [substitutes] as should be pronounced intolerable," Dr. Hall produces his quotations from this American schoolbook.

Although capping "Americanisms" by citing similar expressions from British literature is not very serious employment, it will be admitted, I think, that the exercise has some utility when the discoverer of "our linguistic innovations" is so high an authority as Dr. Hall. It is true that the English of some of the British writers quoted below is not first-rate, but for capping "Americanisms" it is as good as the best. I will prefix H to quotations cited by Dr. Hall. The italics indicating the supposed Americanisms are his.

(H 1.) "The judge *concluded* to furnish the two thousand dollars."

"Concluded," as here employed, expresses a complex of ideas,—*doubt or hesitation, consideration, decision, intention*. *Conclude* is similarly used by Mr. Thomas Hardy.

"... if I continue to feel about the business as I feel at this moment,—perhaps I may conclude never to go at all."—'The Woodlanders,' ch. xxvii.

(H 2.) "You look wild and mutter. That *don't* matter."

"They don't want it, but that *don't* matter." H. Rider Haggard, 'Mr. Meeson's Will,' ch. ii.

*Don't* for *Doesn't* is a very common British colloquialism.

(H 3.) "Then he sailed out, and followed *along* the shores, till he came to."

*Along* is not redundant here; it permits the mind to give more attention to the course followed.

"Cæsar meanwhile had followed along Pompey's track, hoping to overtake him."—James Anthony Froude, 'Cæsar,' ch. xxiii.

(H 4.) "Benjamin Franklin ... was born *in* Boston."

*In* instead of *at*.

"... Swift was born in Dublin..."—Thackeray, 'The English Humourists of the Eighteenth Century' (London, 1869), p. 136.

"Gotthold Ephraim Lessing was born on

January 22, 1729, in Kamenz, a small town in upper Lusatia..."—James Sime, 'Lessing' (Boston, 1877), p. 20.

(H 5.) "To make money *out of* the whale-fishery."

"Having the national respect for money, he [the average Briton] in secret, if not in public, despises it [literature]... What can literature be worth, if a man can't make a fortune out of it?—H. Rider Haggard, 'Mr. Meeson's Will,' ch. iv.

(H 6.) "People paid a dollar *apiece* to see the wonder."

"The tax-gatherer, however, does not credit the ladies with even one-seventh of a soul apiece,..."—Fred. J. Whishaw, 'Out of Doors in Tsarland' (London, 1893), p. 5.

"... the regiment devoted itself to polo with unexpected results, for it beat by two goals to one that very terrible polo corps, the Lushkar Light Horse, though the latter had four ponies apiece for a short hour's fight..."—Rudyard Kipling, 'Mine Own People' (*The Man Who Was*).

(H 7.) "If you can send that, so that Professor Morse can read it at the other end of the wire, *I will* be convinced."

I have not observed that the misuse of *will* for *shall* is commoner in American than in English writing.

"If ye do this thing we will be satisfied indeed."—H. Rider Haggard, 'King Solomon's Mines,' ch. xi.

"Then I suppose we'll have a council of regency, and a tutor for the young prince..."—Rudyard Kipling, 'Mine own People' (*At the End of the Passage*).

(H 8.) "Little George Washington went to a *school taught* by a man named Hobby."

"The first school I remember was taught by the regular old dame of Shenstone's verse, in a high-crowned black bonnet, worn permanently."—Charlotte M. Yonge, 'An Old Woman's Outlook,' etc. (London, 1892), p. 81.

(H 9.) "Even if he had wanted *to*, he could not have wasted his time ... by reading exciting stories."

The disembodied infinitive, as this variety of infinitive might appropriately be called, haunts not American English exclusively.

"'But don't [said Lady Holmhurst], if you don't wish to, you know.' But Augusta did wish to, and then and there she unfolded her whole sad story..."—H. Rider Haggard, 'Mr. Meeson's Will,' ch. v.—"Because Sir Henry Curtis and Captain John Good asked me to [write it].—*Id.*, 'King Solomon's Mines,'

ch. i.—“I think that each of us was wondering if we should ever see that wagon again; for my part I never expected to.”—*Ibid.*, ch. iv.

(H 10.) “Some of the Southern States claimed that *they had a right* to withdraw from the Union.”

A clause introduced by *that* is here made the object of *claim*.

“... a writ must be issued to revoke the probate, and claiming that the court should pronounce in favor of the later will.”—H. Rider Haggard, ‘Mr. Meeson’s Will,’ ch. xvi.

(H 11.) “Benjamin *ran* the little paper while his brother was in prison.”

“When you and I, dear Alec, think and talk of people, we conclude that they are exactly like ourselves—do we not? Quite worldly and selfish you know. Everyone with his little show to run for himself.”—Walter Besant, ‘Armored of Lyonesse,’ (New York, 1890) Part ii., ch. v.—“... London, where all the men and most of the women have their own shows to run. . .”—*Ibid.*, Part i., ch. ix.

(H 12.) “Washington had all his camp fires *built up*.”

“‘Jim’ built up a great fire, and before long we were all sitting round it at supper.”—Isabella L. Bird, ‘A Lady’s Life in the Rocky Mountains’ (New York, 1879–80), Letter vii, October.

(H 13.) “They shaved his head, *except for* a single lock.”

*To shave the head means to make the head bare by shaving.* If the sentence quoted be so understood, the use of *except for* in it is seen to be parallel to its use in the next quotation:

“... while the church,—one night, except  
For greenish glimmerings thro’ the lancets—made  
Still paler the pale head of him, who tower’d  
Above them, . . .”

Tennyson, “Aylmer’s Field,” ll. 621–4.

But, perhaps, it is not legitimate here to make a syntactical analogy by substituting one phrase for another. Although the two next passages differ in grammatical construction from the American quotation, they show how a careless use of *except for*, such as that censured by Dr. Hall, may have been suggested.

“His face was smooth-shaven except for a dense moustache and imperial.”—Isabella L. Bird, ‘A Lady’s Life in the Rocky Mountains’ (New York, 1879–80), Letter vi, Sept. 28.—“...

and except for the tones of our voices, and an occasional crackle and splutter as a pine knot blazed up, there was no sound on the mountain side.”—*Ibid.*, Letter vii.

The difference between common English and the three next Americanisms would be precisely indicated by italicizing the *a* of “around” instead of the whole word.

(H 14.) “So he turned *around*, and marched swiftly back to Jamestown.”

“... they turned round without speaking, and went back again along the lane.”—George Eliot, ‘Scenes of Clerical Life’ (*Janet’s Repentance*, ch. xxvi).

“... we may walk from Paddington to Mile End without seeing one person in whom any feature is so overcharged, that we turn round to stare at it.”—Macaulay, ‘Miscellaneous writings’ (*The Diary and Letters of Madame D’Arblay*).

“... and hearing a tittering behind him, turned round just once, to quell it, with an awful frown.”—Philip Gilbert Hamerton, ‘Harry Blount,’ ch. ii.

(H 15.) “Henry . . . thought he could find a way to get *around* Africa to the rich countries of Asia.”

“... the southern end of the Rocky Mountains, round which we were making our way now to the northward again.”—Marianne North, ‘Recollections of a Happy Life’ (2d. ed., London, 1892), vol. ii., p. 202.—“Jenner had . . . sent him on a sailing voyage round the Cape.”—*Ibid.*, p. 102.

“... that marvellous subtlety of contrivance in steering round odd tempers, that is found in sons of the soil and dependants generally.”—Thomas Hardy, ‘The Woodlanders,’ ch. xxvii.

(H 16.) “He used to carry letters *around* in the crown of his hat, and distribute the mail in that way.”

“The city authorities were proud of what they were doing. They took us round in a steam launch, showed us their vast excavations [etc.].”—James Anthony Froude, ‘Oceana’ (New York, 1886), p. 246.—“The new members [of the Roman Senate] came in slowly, and it is needless to say were unwillingly received; a private handbill was sent round, recommending the coldest greetings to them.”—*Id.*, ‘Cæsar’ (New York, 1879), ch. xxvi, p. 488.

In a similar sense *round* is connected with many intransitive verbs.

“The writer sneered at me for travelling round Europe with a portmanteau full of culture on my back.”—John Addington Symonds, ‘In the Key of Blue,’ etc. (London, 1893), p. 195.

"... going round the town, no doubt, in search of some unwatched house or some unfastened door."—Mrs. Gaskell, 'Cranford,' ch. x.

But *around* and *round* are confused in English as well as in American writing.

"I ran into Strickland's room and asked him whether he was ill and had been calling for me . . . 'I thought you'd come,' he said. 'Have I been walking around the house at all?'"

"I explained that he had been in the dining-room and the smoking-room and two or three other places."—Rudyard Kipling, 'Mine Own People' (*The Recrudescence of Imray*).

"... you have got your work to do and you must not fool around any longer."—Walter Besant, 'Armored of Lyonesse,' Part i., ch. iv.—"... no visitor . . . wanders on the beaches and around the bays."—*Ibid.*, ch. viii.—"... if . . . you climb every headland and walk round every bay . . ."—*Ibid.*

In whatever sense *around* is understood in the next quotation the spatial difficulties are immense.

"She stamped her foot and raised her voice, inasmuch that two drowsy attendants [in 'The National Gallery'] woke up and stood around, thinking they had dreamed something unusual."—*Ibid.*, Part ii., ch. xvii.

In bringing together for comparison the foregoing quotations, it has not been my notion that any form of expression found in an American book is justified by the production of a parallel expression from an English book. Such an idea would be absurd. A locution that is censured as an Americanism may be shown to be English, but still it may be bad English. A discussion of the quality of the English of the passages compared is beyond the scope of this paper. However, the reader has noticed, no doubt, that some of the quotations (both Dr. Hall's and mine) are fragments of conversation and that, therefore, they cannot fairly be regarded as representing the writers' ideas of correct English. In England, I believe, as in America, a studied observance of grammatical correctness in conversation is felt to be underbred.

The larger part of Dr. Hall's citations in the *Academy* remain uncapped. Some of these are undoubtedly Americanisms; many more may be; but it would be a rash venture for anybody to undertake to separate all the Americanisms from the rest. Dr. Hall's

knowledge of the differences between British and American English is incomparably greater than that of anybody else, and yet it seems that even he has fallen into error.

It would take considerable space to discuss Dr. Hall's opinions concerning "the American dialect." That an American dialect is in process of formation I regard as certain; but it should be remembered that the differences between American and British English are as much the results of departures in England from an earlier standard as of such departures in America. Apparently, Dr. Hall thinks that America is still in the colonial period.

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ADDITIONAL REMARKS UPON  
BEYER-PASSY'S 'ELEMENTAR-  
buch des gesprochenen französisch'  
and Beyer's 'Ergänzungsheft'.

It seems to me necessary to add a few words to my review of Beyer-Passy's 'Elementarbuch' and Beyer's 'Ergänzungsheft.' This review was written last April; in the meantime, I have had the advantage of reading carefully Mr. Rolin's long critique (in the *Phonetische Studien*, vi, 2, pp. 219-234), which is, I am sorry to say, unfair and unjust to the authors, but thorough and exhaustive and, therefore, notwithstanding its blemishes, is instructive and interesting for the scholar even if he is compelled to disapprove of many views held by Mr. Rolin in regard to French phonetics and Beyer-Passy's transcriptions. Moreover, I had during last summer a good opportunity for testing practically every line and every word of the forty-two phonetic texts while instructing my boy, who is eight years old and bilingual, speaking his maternal language, French, as well or rather as badly as German. He could not read French, but had learned to read and write German at school in Germany. The result of the phonetic method with him, in his French lessons, by the aid of Beyer-Passy's books has been excellent throughout and, although such a result was not unexpected, it still surprises me more and

\*Of. "Phonetics and 'Reform-Method'" in MOD. LANG. NOTES, vol. viii, pp. 161-166; 193-199. (June and November, 1893).